

UNCLE RAY

he came out of the century room
and wanted to see his sister's
daughter's new kid in pedro.
"i know i look like a bum
but i'm not. i'm a seaman.
i had a few highballs but i
got money. you want to see it?
i'm not a bum."

i saw that money a lot
by the time i got the bum
over the bridge and to the number
that luckily somebody had written
down. out of the house came
a beautiful girl with a black
doberman with its ears taped back.

i would have talked thru a
cracked window but ray was drunk
and walked right up to her
and she didn't know the people
in back but would tell them
uncle ray was here. the three of them
disappeared and a few minutes later
he was back.

"it's them. take me to a liquor store.
goddam i got to pee. make a left."
it was more like six turns before
i found a spot and by then i had
to go too. we jumped out opposite
sides and finished just before
some headlights got us.

"i know that you know
i'm not a bum. shake."
"i better keep my hands
on the wheel."
i got him back there and
reminded him of ten of the fifteen
he'd given me and he paid me off.
the girl and the doberman were
nowhere in sight and ray got out
and his fly was open.

i thought of that young couple
back there with a baby
and in comes that drunken bum
uncle ray with his dick hanging out.
was it not meant to be?
"see ya later, ray."